CHEPSTOW HOUSE,
ROSS,
HEREFORDSHIRE,

June, 1914.

To the Chairman and Members of the Ross Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—I beg to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1913. I am glad to be able to state that our Town not only maintains, but yearly improves upon its record of health, the death rate for the year being only 12.71 per 1,000, as compared with a ration of 13.95 in 1912, and 14.89 in the year 1911. The average for the last ten years is 15.51, so that we have this year a drop of practically 3 per 1,000. The town may also be congratulated on the longevity of its inhabitants, the total number of deaths was 60, and 39 of these deaths were of people over the age of 70—60 per cent.

I have again to deplore the still steadily decreasing birth rate. In 1911 the rate was 21.28 per 1,000, last year it dropped to 20.71, and this year it is at the rate of only 19.27 per 1,000 inhabitants.

The efforts made by legislation and in other ways to lessen the great mortality amongst babies is yielding good harvest—only one infant under the age of one year having died.

We can also congratulate ourselves on the slight incidence of infectious disease in the Town during the year. While the whole country has been swept by an epidemic of Scarlet Fever, Ross has been let lightly off with only nine cases of Fever and one case of Diphtheria.

It is possible now, under the new regulations for the proper notification of Tuberculosis Disease to estimate the prevalence and increase, or otherwise, of that complaint, only eight cases of Pthisis occurred during the year—a percentage of 1.69 per 1,000 people, a very small proportion; but three deaths were recorded.

The deaths from Cancer show a slight increase on last year, 1.90 per 1,000, as against 1 per 1,000 the year before.

The very small and extremely satisfactory death rate, the small amount of Infectious Disease, the great age of nearly 60 per cent. of those who died, show that for the year 1913, Ross can be considered as one of the healthiest towns in the whole of the British Isles.

The area of the District comprises 434 Acres, the number of inhabited houses being 1,150; average number of inhabitants per house 4.

The total population at the census taken on April 1st: 1911 was 4,682, and the estimated population on June 30th, 1913, was 4,720.

Births.—The nett births were 91, giving a ratio per 1,000 of 19.27.

Deaths.—The nett number 60, a ratio of 12.71. There were 36 deaths in the institutions, most of whom were non-residents, while in seven cases inquests were held by the coroner.

Infantile Mortality.—Only one death during the year, the cause being premature birth and debility.

Infectious Diseases.—Nine cases of Scarlet Fever and one of Diphtheria, no deaths.

Of Tuberculosis, in all its forms, nine cases occurred with three deaths, the ratio being .63 per 1,000.

Cancer was responsible for nine deaths, the ratio being 1.90 per 1,000.

Housing and Town Planning Act.—Steady progress has been made during the year, but notwithstanding the endeavours of your Medical Officer and Sanitary Inspector, to improve the home conditions of the poorer people, a great deal still remains to be done. There are still many so-called Dwellings in the Town that are in no way fit for the habitation of human beings. Work under this Act requires much patience and tact, and I gratefully acknowledge that, now the reasons of, and the necessity for, the working of the Act are more generally recognised, there has been less friction in the working. 104 Houses have been inspected, and eight closing orders asked for and made.

The appended table gives the details:—

Sewage and Drainage.—The bulk of the sewage is conveyed by stone-ware pipes to the river, and discharged into it without any preliminary treatment whatever. There are still a few Privies in existence, but they are gradually being superseded by a more suitable Water-Closet system. The Council Carts regularly remove the contents of Ash Bins and deposit them on the Town tip.

Water Supply.—From Artesian Wells situated at Alton Court, the water is very pure, but hard. There are still a few private wells in use.

Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milkshops.—There are seven on the register. The milk supply

is good, and is obtained principally from Farms close to the Town. The Dairies, Cow-sheds, etc., have been frequently inspected, and found satisfactory.

Slaughter Houses.—The six Slaughter Houses have been inspected at certain intervals, and their condition has been found good both for drainage and water supply. Bye-laws are in force for control, but no action was necessary under the Sale of Food and Drugs Act.

Common Lodging-Houses.—The four licensed Lodging-Houses have been regularly inspected, and no action has been found necessary for contravention of the Bye-laws.

Offensive Trades.—There are no offensive trades carried on.

Bakehouses.—The condition of the Bakehouses, of which there are nine, two of which are factory bakehouses, were satisfactory.

Schools.—The Public Elementary Schools are in a good sanitary condition, and are supplied with water from the Town Water Works.

Isolation Hospital.—The District is still without an Isolation Hospital. The Houses are disinfected with Formalin Vapour, but there is no provision for the disinfection of Bedding and Clothing except destruction by burning.

Factory and Workshops Act, 1901.—Under the Factory and Workshops Act 80 inspections were made. The general condition of the workplaces were satisfactory and call for no comment.

A summary of work done by the Sanitary Inspector is attached hereto, together with the tables as required by the Local Government Board.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. J. CAMPBELL,

M. O. H.

ACTION TAKEN UNDER THE HOUSING ACTS, 1890 TO 1909.—ROSS URBAN.

No. of Dwelling-houses inspected under and for the purposes of Section 17.	No. considered to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation.	No. of representations made to Local Authority with a view to the making of Closing Orders.	No. of Closing Orders made.	No. of Dwelling-houses the defects in which were remedied without the making of Closing Orders.	No. of Dwelling-houses which after the making of Closing Orders were put into a fit state for human habitation.	No. of Demolition Orders made.	No. of Dwelling-houses demolished.	No. of Dwelling-houses made in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation under Section 14 and 15.	Houses erected or in course of erection on or near site of demolished houses in lieu thereof.	Inhabited houses closed and remaining void, or used for other purposes.
104	8	8	8	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	Nil.	About 36 in hand.	Nil.	13

TABLE I.

Vital Statistics of whole District during 1913 and previous years.

Year.	Population estimated to Middle of each Year	Births. Un-corrected Number.	Births. Nett. Number.	Births. Nett. Rate.	Total Deaths Registered in the District. Number.	Total Deaths Registered in the District. Rate.	Transferable Deaths of Non-Residents Registered in the District.	Transferable Deaths of Residents not Registered in the District.	Nett Deaths belonging to the District. Under 1 Year of Age. Number.	Under 1 Year of Age. Rate per 1,000 Nett Births.	At all Ages. Number.	At all Ages. Rate.
1908	4760	115	—	24.	81	17.	10	1	8	70.	72	15.
1909	4780	104	—	21.7	90	18.	26	5	10	96.	68	14.
1910	4750	104	—	21.89	83	17.4	26	—	11	105.7	57	12.
1911	4700	102	100	21.28	86	18.30	17	1	13	130.	70	14.89
1912	4730	99	98	20.71	80	16.70	16	3	7	71.43	67	13.95
1913	4720	93	91	19.278	76	16.101	16	nil	1	21.978	60	12.711

Area of District in Acres (land and inland water) ... ... } 434.

Total Population at all ages, 4,682

Number of Inhabited Houses, 1,150

Average Number of Persons per House, 4

} At Census, 1911 (cf. Census, Vol. V.)

TABLE II.

Cases of Infectious Disease Notified during the Year 1913.

Notifiable Disease.	At all Ages.	Number of Cases Notified. At Ages—Years. Under 1.	1 and under 5 years	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cholera Plague	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria (including Membranous croup)	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Erysipelas	4	—	—	—	1	1	2	—
Scarlet Fever	9	—	3	5	—	1	—	—
Typhus Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Relapsing Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Continued Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	8	—	—	—	2	5	1	—
Other Forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	25	—	3	6	4	9	3	—

Isolation Hospital or Hospitals, Sanatoria, &c.—**None.**

TABLE III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1913.

Causes of Death	All Ages.	Nett Deaths at the subjoined Ages of "Residents," whether occurring within or without the District. Under 1 year.	1 and under 2 years.	2 and under 5 years.	5 and under 15 years.	15 and under 25 years.	25 and under 45 years.	45 and under 65 years.	65 and upwards.	Total Deaths whether of "Residents" or "Non-Residents" in Institutions in the District.
All causes—										
Certified	76	1	1	—	4	6	5	18	41	36
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteric Fever	1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Influenza	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Phthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis)	3	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	1	1
Tuberculous Meningitis	3	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Cancer, Malignant Disease	9	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	3	1
Rheumatic Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Organic Heart Disease	7	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	6	4
Bronchitis	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	4
Pneumonia (all forms)	4	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2	—
Other Diseases of Respiratory Organs	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Diarrhœa and Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Appendicitis and Typhlitis	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Cirrhosis of Liver	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Alcoholism	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Nephritis and Bright's Disease	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Puerperal Fever	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Other Accidents and Diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature Birth	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide	5	—	1	—	—	1	—	1	2	5
Suicide	2	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	1
Other Defined Diseases	30	—	—	—	—	1	1	8	20	17
Totals	76	1	1	—	4	6	5	18	41	36

TABLE IV.

INFANT MORTALITY, 1913.

Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under One Year of Age.

Cause of Death.	Under 1 week.	1-2 weeks.	2-3 weeks.	3-4 weeks.	Total under 1 month.	1-3 months.	3-6 months.	6-9 months.	9-12 months.	Total. Deaths under 1 year.
All causes—										
Certified	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Uncertified	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Small Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chicken Pox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria and Croup	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculous Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Abdominal Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Tuberculous Diseases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningitis (not Tuberculous)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Convulsions (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Laryngitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bronchitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia (all forms)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diarrhœa	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Enteritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Gastritis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Syphilis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rickets	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Suffocation, overlying	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Injury at Birth	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Congenital Malformations	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Premature Birth	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Causes	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1

Nett Births in the year { Legitimate ... 91; Illegitimate ... 6 }

Nett Deaths in the year of { Legitimate Infants ... —; Illegitimate Infants ... 1 }

Summary of Work performed by the Sanitary Inspector.

Drains provided for new Houses	1
New Drains provided for existing premises	29
Drains repaired	8
Number of tests applied	52
Defects discovered in testing new work	45
MISCELLANEOUS:—	
Closets provided and repaired including those to new houses	29
Cases of overcrowding	3
Nuisances reported and investigated	30
Nuisances abated	23
WATER SUPPLY:—	
Connections to water service	7
Houses supplied	7
INFECTIOUS DISEASES:—	
Enquiry made of notified cases	10
Disinfection work carried out at premises	9
TOWN PLANNING ACT, &c.	
Houses inspected	104
Orders issued to close houses unfit for habitation	8
Number of houses inspected to date	250
Number of these houses requiring repairing	100
Number of these houses repaired	36
Number of houses partially repaired	10
Houses void, unfit for human habitation	3
Houses void, fit for human habitation	2
FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS:—	
Number of workshops on register	47
Number of factories as regards sanitary accommodation	20
Number of bakehouses on register	7
Factory bakehouses	2
Number of visits paid	80
SLAUGHTER HOUSES:—	
Number inspected	4
Milkshops, dairies, and cowsheds	6
PETROLEUM ACT:—	
Number of premises licensed to store Petroleum	8
Number of premises licensed to store Carbide of Calcium	5
CLERICAL WORK:—	
Letters sent out	131
Notices sent out, Section 41 P.H.A.	4
Closing Orders, H.T.P.A.	9
Notices to repair houses, H.T.P.A.	22
Notices to schools *re* infectious cases	6
Number of reports to Council	12
Number of matters dealt with in committee	81
Committees attended	12
Council meetings attended	12
Prosecutions	Nil

A. J. CAMPBELL, Medical Officer of Health.

FRANK RICKETTS, Sanitary Inspector.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1913,

FOR THE URBAN DISTRICT OF ROSS,

On the administration of the Factory and Workshop Act, 1901, in connection with Factories, Workshops, Workplaces, and Homework.

1—Inspection of Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces,

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nuisances.

PREMISES.	Inspections.	NUMBER OF: Written Notices.	Prosecutions.
FACTORIES (Including Factory Laundries)	22	Nil	Nil
WORKSHOPS (Including Workshop Laundries)	64	—	—
Total	86	—	—

2—Defects found in Factories, Workshops, and Workplaces.

PARTICULARS.	NUMBER OF DEFECTS: Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector.	Number of Prosecutions.
Nuisances under the Public Health Acts:—				
Want of cleanliness	—	—	—	—
Want of ventilation	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding	—	—	—	—
Want of drainage of floors	—	—	—	—
Other nuisances	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation— Insufficient	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Accommodation— Unsuitable or defective	5	5	Nil	Nil
Sanitary Accommodation— Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—
Offences under the Factory and Workshop Acts:—				
Illegal occupation of underground bakehouse (s. 101)	—	—	—	—
Breach of special sanitary requirements for bakehouses (ss. 97 to 100)	—	—	—	—
Other offences (excluding offences relating to outwork which are included in Part 3 of this Report)	—	—	—	—
Total	5	5	—	—

3—Home Work—Nil.

4—Registered Workshops.

Workshops on the Register (s. 131) at the end of the year.	Number.
Bakehouses	7
Dressmakers, Milliners, Watch Repairers, Carpenters, etc.	47
Total number of Workshops on Register	54

A. J. CAMPBELL,

Medical Officer of Health.

June 8th, 1914.